

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 17, 20, 23, 25-26 and 28 have been amended. Claims 4, 12, 22 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-21, 23-26 and 28-29 remain pending. No new subject matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In response to paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-29 under Section 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,284 ("Moore") and U.S. Patent No. 6,212,408 ("Son"). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references because the references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed features of the invention.

For example, claim 1 recites:

"In a subscriber unit capable of wireless communication with an infrastructure . . . a method comprising steps of . . .

locally monitoring the voice communication, using a local speech recognizer included in the subscriber unit, for at least one predetermined utterance;

providing an interrupt indicator upon recognizing the at least one predetermined utterance with the local speech recognizer; and

activating during the voice communication, in response to the presence of the interrupt indicator, a portion of a speech recognition element included in the subscriber unit...."

The other independent claims, claims 9, 17, 20 and 25, recited subject matter similar to that quoted above and are thus not repeated here for the sake of brevity.

The references of Moore and Son entirely lack any teaching or suggestion of the above-quoted features, particularly, a subscriber unit that combines a local speech recognizer and a portion of a speech recognition element, where the speech recognition element is distributed between the subscriber unit and infrastructure. Basically, the claimed subscriber unit uses a local speech recognizer (which can have reduced capabilities to use fewer subscriber unit resources) to

invoke a distributed speech recognition element (which can have more robust recognition capabilities).

In sharp contrast to the claimed invention, Moore eschews any form of local speech recognition and, in fact, advocates the elimination of a local speech recognizer in subscriber units (see Applicant's 5/28/02 Response, Paper No. 11). Moreover, the teachings of Moore are entirely contrary to the notion of combining a local speech recognizer and a portion of a distributed speech recognition process within a subscriber unit. Thus, the teachings of Moore would hardly suggest Applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill, and would in fact teach away from Applicant's approach.

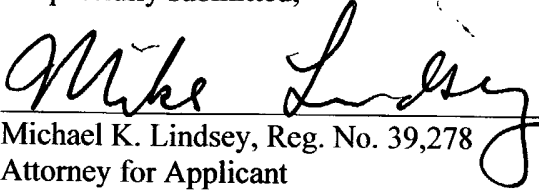
With respect to the other cited reference Son, Son's system locates all of the speech recognition functionality within the handset. Like Moore, Son fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination of the local speech recognizer and the portion of the distributed speech recognition element within the subscriber unit. Thus, even when combined, the references of Moore and Son entirely fail to teach or suggest a subscriber unit using local speech recognition to wakeup a distributed speech recognition process. Combining Son with Moore in an attempt to arrive at Applicant's invention would not only fail to arrive at the claimed invention as a whole, but would also not be proper under Section 103 because Moore so strongly teaches away from local speech recognition. For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 9, 17, 20 and 25, as well as all other pending claims by their respective dependency, are patentable over Moore and Son under Section 103(a).

Conclusion

Each of the pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application and feels that a telephone conference would be helpful to resolve any issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the 847-277-9500.

No additional fee beyond that for the extension of time is believed to be due with this reply.

Respectfully submitted,


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